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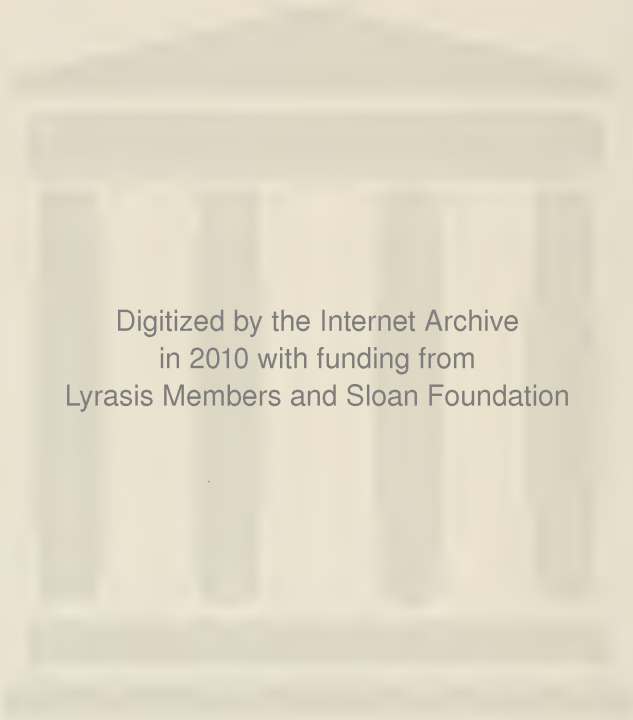

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BY THE SENATE,
JUNE 6th, 1861.

Read and 500 copies ordered to be printed.

MESSAGE

OF THE

GOVERNOR

IN RELATION TO HIS

Disarming the State Military,

IN RESPONSE TO AN ORDER OF THE

SENATE OF MARYLAND.

EXTRA SESSION, 1861.

FREDERICK:
BEALE H. RICHARDSON, PRINTER.
1861.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND,

IN RESPONSE TO THE ORDER OF THE SENATE OF JUNE 5, 1861, IN RELATION TO HIS DISARMING OF THE STATE MILITARY.

STATE OF MARYLAND,

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,

FREDERICK CITY, June 5, 1861.

Gentlemen of the Senate:

In response to your order of this date, asking me "to furnish the Senate, at my earliest convenience, with a statement of the facts which induced me to reclaim the arms formerly confided to certain military companies of Baltimore city; also, with the reasons why said arms were sent, by my order, to Fort McHenry; and, also, what security I have for the restoration of said arms, when demanded by the proper authorities of Maryland," I have to say—

That, although I cannot acknowledge any right on the part of the Senate to make such inquiries, yet it gives me pleasure to respond to them, inasmuch as I desire the people of the State to be acquainted with the motives of all my official actions, and had, therefore, determined to give the public the reasons for my action in the premises.

I issued orders for reclaiming the arms referred to, because I had become satisfied that many of them had been carried beyond the limits of the State of Maryland, for disloyal purposes; where-

by our citizens, the loyal as well as the disloyal, have become obnoxious to the charge of aiding and abetting those persons who are now in rebellion against the United States Government; and whereby, also, the State, in addition to a pecuniary loss, has been deprived of the protection designed to her citizens by the purchase of said arms. Having good reason to believe that more of said arms would be carried off for a like purpose, unless they were promptly secured, I ordered them to be reclaimed, thinking it to be my duty to do so, for the protection of the interests of the State.

I have ordered the arms to be deposited at Fort McHenry, as a place of security, because other arms belonging to the State had previously been stolen from the depository selected in Baltimore city; and I did not deem it prudent to again incur a similar risk.

The security I have "for the restoration of said arms, when demanded by the proper authorities of Maryland," lies in the honor of the United States Government, and of its loyal officers. I should have deemed it absurd and insulting to have required any other security.

THOS. H. HICKS.